

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02

TRSE-00 JUSE-00 MCT-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 OES-06

OMB-01 /073 W

-----132329Z 035272 /64

P 132305Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9685

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MMOL, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON SENATORIAL HEARINGS ON ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFIC
FROM US TO MEXICO.

1. MEXICO DAILY EXCELSIOR OF JANUARY 13 CARRIES HEADLINE
STORY BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FAUSTO FERNANDEZ PONTE
CONCERNING ILLEGAL ARMS TRAFFIC FROM US TO MEXICO. ACCORDING
TO REPORT, US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPRESENTING TREASURY
(REX DAVIS, OFFICE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND ARMS, AND VERNON
ACREE, CURSOMS COMMISSIONER), JUSTICE(PETER BENSINGER,
OFFICE OF NARCOTICS(SIC)) AND SEVERAL SPECIAL AGENTS, TESTIFIED
THAT THOUSANDS OF ARMS ILLICITLY ACQUIRED IN THE US HAD
BEEN INTRODUCED ILLEGALLY INTO MEXICO SINCE 1972 AND ARE
IN THE HANDS OF LARGE LAND OWNERS AND THEIR PRIVATE ARMIES,
DRUG TRAFFICKERS, AND TERRORIST GROUPS. AMONG OTHER FOINTS
OF THEIR TESTIMONY AS REPORTED AND HIGHLIGHTED BY EXCELSIOR
WERE THE FOLLOWING:

A) LARGE QUANTITY OF ARMS COMING INTO MEXICO ENTERED WITH
THE COMPLICITY OF SOME MEXICAN CONSULS IN US BORDER CITIES.

B) MEXICO REQUESTED THE US TO TRAIN MEXICAN AGENTS IN
ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.

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C) US CUSTOMS POLICE HAVE DE FACTO JURISDICTION TO OPERATE
WITHIN 25 MILES OF THE BORDER IN CERTAIN TYPES OF
CASES.

D) THE US AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, JOVA, OPPOSED HAVING
A US POLICE AGENT ASSIGNED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY TO CARRY
OUT INTELLIGENCE FUNCTIONS RELATED TO ARMS TRAFFIC.

E) WELL-KNOWN MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKER, ALBERTO SICILIA

FALCON, HAD BANK ACCOUNTS IN US AMOUNTING TO \$260 MILLION.

2. ACCORDING TO EXCELSIOR, ABOVE TESTIMONY WAS GIVEN IN PUBLIC AND PRECEDED CLOSED SESSION REQUESTED BY US OFFICIALS ON GROUNDS THAT "THERE ARE MANY THINGS RELATIVE TO ARMS AND NARCOTICS CONTRABAND THAT CANNOT BE DISCUSSED OPENLY." EXCELSIOR ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENATOR NUNN AS STATING THAT COMMITTEE HAD EXTENSIVE INFORMATION RELATED TO PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL TRAFFIC OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES FROM THE US TO MEXICO. NUNN IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING "WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED BY THIS MATTER AND THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM."

3. ARTICLE GOES ON TO CITE US OFFICIALS AS STATING THAT BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND AUGUST OF 1976, 36 ARMS MERCHANTS SOLD TO MEXICAN CITIZENS MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION BULLETS AND INTRODUCED INTO MEXICO BOATS, PLANES AND AUTOMOBILES. IT ALSO SAYS M-16 RIFLES SOLD IN SINOLA FOR \$500(US) A PIECE AND QUOTES BENSINGER(JUSTICE) AS ESTIMATING THAT 15 PERCENT OF ILLEGAL ARMS ARE DESTINED TO DRUG TRAFFICKERS WITH THE REST GOING TO LARGE LAND OWNERS, SUCH AS WELL-KNOWN BULLFIGHTER GASTON SANTOS, FOR THEIR PERSONAL ARMIES AND TO TERRORIST GROUPS.

4. COMMENT: IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESS AND OFFICIAL QUERIES REGARDING EXCELSIOR STORY, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT REGARDING EXCELSIOR VERSION OF TESTIMONY, TOGETHER WITH ANY GUIDANCE AS TO APPROPRIATE EMBASSY RESPONSE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS OR OFFICIAL GOM QUERIES.
JOVA

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARMS SMUGGLING, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO00486
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-1186
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770155/aaaabwev.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:10 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:09 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 871405da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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